

a hundred pounds in weight. Their functions were practically unlimited, save for the all-important exception that they exercised no military command. They had an exchequer of their own, through which passed all the Imperial taxes from their provinces; they had absolute control over the vicars of the dioceses beneath them, whom, if they did not actually appoint they at least recommended for appointment to the Emperor. In their own prefectures they formed the final court of appeal, and Constantine expressly enacted that there should be no appeal from them to the throne. They even had a limited power of issuing edicts. Thus in all administrative, financial, and judicial matters the four Praetorian praefects were supreme, occupying a position very similar to that of the Viceroys of the great provinces of China, save that they had no control over the troops within their territories.

Below these four praefects came the vicars of the twelve dioceses of the Oriens, Pontica, Asiana, Thracia, Mcesia, Pannonia, Britanniae, Galliae, Viennenses, Italia, Hispaniae, and Africa. Egypt continued to hold an unique position; its governor was almost independent of the praefect of the Orient, and was always a direct nominee of the Emperor. Then, below the twelve vicars came the governors of the provinces, the number of which constantly tended to increase, but by further subdivision rather than by conquest of new territory. Various names were given to these governors; they were *rectores* and *correctores* in some provinces, *presides* in many more, *consulares* in a few of the more important ones, such